

News Release

Leadership through Empowerment Graduation

Feb. 24, 2010

On behalf of the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, the Harrisonburg Police Department, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, and Rockingham County Public Schools; Halterman Karate and Kickboxing and CHARGE will be presenting 23 graduates of the Leadership through Empowerment Program to the community.

On Feb. 26, from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Wilbur Pence Middle School, 375 Bowman Road in Dayton, these students will demonstrate what they have accomplished to members of the community, law enforcement, friends, and family.

The Leadership through Empowerment Program began in December of 2009, when community leaders saw a need for the local youth to begin a life-changing challenge. Students involved with this program were challenged to be a better person, raise their grades, learn respect, give back to their community, stand up for what is right, and seek positive role models.

Many sponsors within this very community supported the program and donated their time and money to see this program succeed.

"This is a milestone; however, we aren't measuring the success of this program solely on the first round of students graduating," said CHARGE supervisor and the program's assistant. "Their success will be measured throughout the upcoming months and even years of their lives based on their behavior and continued life improvements."

These students underwent eight weeks of learning life-changing skills as well as karate lessons.

Additional sponsors are still being sought. Anyone interested in participating or making donations toward this program is asked to call Marsha Garst at 540-564-3350 or Harold Halterman at 540-434-8824.

Current sponsors for this program:

- Harold Halterman with Halterman Karate and Kickboxing
- Dennis Zimmerman, Com Sonics, Inc.
- Gary Shickel, Shickel Corporation
- Bruce and Luis Forbes, Forbes Development
- Walter and Martha Curt
- Matt Einstein, Einstein's Stroke of Genius Commercial Painting
- Wal-Mart
- WHSV
- Mike Meredith, Printing Express
- Rockingham County Public Schools